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Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 18 February 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you that the so-called "Iraqi National Congress", based in London and Washington, issued a statement on 13 February 2002 in which it claimed responsibility for sabotage operations during the past seven months against Iraqi civilian facilities, including refineries, pumps and oil pipelines, and said that it had rockets and booby-trapped cars in these operations.

While the United States of America and the United Kingdom claim to be seeking to combat terrorism, they are continuing to apply the same old policy of sheltering, harbouring and arming terrorist groups that seek to undermine stability in numerous countries and permitting such groups to announce such terrorist operations through their offices opened in London and Washington and financed officially by the United Kingdom and the United States.

International law is an indivisible whole, and the principles governing terrorism are an indivisible whole. The United States-United Kingdom selective practices of proclaiming the combating of terrorism, on the one hand, and harbouring terrorists on the other, jeopardize the goal of combating terrorism, as well as constituting a breach of international peace and security, particularly since the United Kingdom chairs the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which imposes on it the obligation to be in the forefront of the battle against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and not to provide a clear example of double standards with regard to terrorism.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdul Munim **Al-Kadhe**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Letter dated 20 February 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest acts of Palestinian terrorism directed against Israel.

Yesterday evening, at approximately 8 p.m. (local time), several Palestinian gunmen attacked an Israel Defense Forces position near the village of Ein Arik. Gunmen burst into a room where several off-duty soldiers were resting and opened fire at close range. The terrorists approached the soldiers by way of an access road that Israel had made available to facilitate the free movement of workers. In total, six Israeli soldiers were killed and a seventh was moderately wounded and evacuated to a nearby hospital. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's own Fatah faction, claimed responsibility for the attack. The same group claimed responsibility for two attacks on Monday which killed four Israelis and which was referred to in my letter dated 19 February 2002.

In another incident yesterday, an alert Israeli bus driver foiled an attempted suicide attack near Mehola. A suspicious individual attempted to board a bus but was blocked by the driver. As the bus pulled away, the terrorist detonated explosives strapped to his body. No one was injured.

These incidents are the latest in the ongoing campaign of Palestinian terrorism that have been detailed in my letters dated 28 January 2002 (A/56/798-S/2002/126), 22 January 2002 (A/56/788-S/2002/104), 18 January 2002 (A/56/781-S/2002/86), 16 January 2002 (A/56/774-S/2002/73), 11 January 2002 (A/56/771-S/2002/47), 4 January 2002 (A/56/766-S/2002/25), 13 December 2001 (A/56/706-S/2001/1198), 4 December 2001 (A/56/678-S/2001/1150), 30 November 2001 (A/56/670-S/2001/1141), 27 November 2001 (A/56/663-S/2001/1121), 12 November 2001 (A/56/617-S/2001/1071), 5 November 2001 (A/56/604-S/2001/1048), 24 October 2001 (A/56/506-S/2001/1011), 19 October 2001 (A/56/492-S/2001/990), 17 October 2001 (A/56/483-S/2001/975), 8 October 2001 (A/56/450-S/2001/948), 5 October 2001 (A/56/444-S/2001/943), 3 October 2001 (A/56/438-S/2001/938), 24 September 2001 (A/56/406-S/2001/907), 20 September 2001 (A/56/386-S/2001/892), 17

02-25821 (E) 200202

September 2001 (A/56/367-S/2001/875), 7 September 2001 (A/56/346-S/2001/858), 4 September 2001 (A/56/331-S/2001/840), 30 August 2001 (A/56/325-S/2001/834), 27 August 2001 (A/56/324-S/2001/825), 13 August 2001 (A/56/294-S/2001/787), 9 August 2001 (A/56/286-S/2001/780), 8 August 2001 (A/56/280-S/2001/775), 6 August 2001 (A/56/272-S/2001/768), 27 July 2001 (A/56/225-S/2001/743), 26 July 2001 (A/56/223-S/2001/737), 17 July 2001 (A/56/201-S/2001/706), 13 July 2001 (A/56/184-S/2001/696), 3 July 2001 (A/56/138-S/2001/662), 2 July 2001 (A/56/131-S/2001/656), 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

The State of Israel holds the Palestinian leadership fully responsible for yesterday's terrorist attack, which was perpetrated by forces under the direct authority of Chairman Arafat. These same forces also proudly claimed responsibility for both of Monday's attacks as well as for scores of other acts of terrorism over the course of 17 months of Palestinian violence. Despite its many declarations and commitments, the Palestinian leadership continues to plot violence against Israel, supports and harbours terrorist organizations, and refuses to arrest known terrorists operating freely in its territory.

The Palestinian leadership has committed itself to completely and unconditionally renounce the use of violence and terrorism; it has accepted the Mitchell Report which calls, first and foremost, for a complete cessation of violence; earlier this month, Chairman Arafat, once again, condemned terrorist attacks and reiterated his commitment to put an end to such activities in an article published in *The New York Times*. And yet, terrorism continues to escalate as the Palestinian leadership fails to follow up its words with the requisite action. In such a situation, it is impossible to regard Palestinian declarations as anything other than platitudes uttered for the benefit of international audiences. Peace will not come to the Middle East so long as the Palestinian Authority tolerates the existence of terrorist organizations in its territory and continues to support acts of violence directed against Israel.

The Palestinian Authority must assume its responsibility, in line with its repeated commitments, to end the violence and return to the path of dialogue and negotiations. The international community must continue to exert full pressure on the Palestinian leadership to stand by its commitments and work towards a complete cessation of hostilities.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aaron **Jacob**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 18
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 21 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government and further to the report of the Secretary-General on the situation covering Western Sahara of 19 February 2002 (S/2002/178), I have the honour to transmit to you the following comments and observations:

1. Algeria would first of all like to express its appreciation and gratitude to the Secretary-General and to his Personal Envoy, James Baker III, for their untiring efforts to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the question of Western Sahara. In this connection, it would like to commend the realism, lucidity and objectivity demonstrated by them in drafting the report and its conclusions.

2. Algeria considers that, after the legal opinion of 29 January 2002 (S/2002/161) — which clearly and appropriately recalled and confirmed the fact that the Kingdom of Morocco is unlawfully occupying Western Sahara and that, consequently, it cannot claim any legitimacy or international recognition, except as an occupying Power — the report of the Secretary-General reminds us, in paragraph 48, that if the settlement plan (see S/21360 and Corr.1 and S/22464) agreed by the two parties to the conflict, the Kingdom of Morocco and Western Sahara, and endorsed by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, has not been applied and if its implementation is likely to face further obstacles in the future, it is because "Morocco has expressed unwillingness to go forward with the settlement plan".

3. Algeria has taken note of the four options presented in the report (paras. 48-51) and would like to explain to the members of the Council its position concerning each of the possibilities envisaged by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy:

- It goes without saying that the first option is the one most acceptable to Algeria, which has always fully supported implementation of the settlement

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plan, convinced that the holding of a free and impartial referendum on self-determination is the right course and the most appropriate way of enabling the people of Western Sahara, under Moroccan occupation, to decide freely on their destiny in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Algeria considers that the settlement plan can be implemented and the decolonization process in Western Sahara can be successfully completed, if only the United Nations would demonstrate the necessary commitment. In this connection, the proposal by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy not to require the concurrence of both parties — a requirement which has enabled one of the parties now identified by the Secretary-General, as I stated earlier, to delay for over 10 years the holding of a referendum on self-determination — would permit an orderly and smooth implementation of the plan.

- On a number of occasions, Algeria has formally expressed its opposition to the draft framework agreement, specifically on the grounds that this draft — which dates back, as indicated in paragraph 35 of the report of the Secretary-General, to the Berlin meeting of 28 September 2000, when the Moroccan delegation proposed "to work out a lasting and definitive solution that would take account of Morocco's sovereignty and territorial integrity" — would constitute programmed integration with the Kingdom of Morocco.

Algeria would like to reiterate its fundamental objections to the draft framework agreement, which, whatever the degree of autonomy it might give to the population of the Territory, is defective in that it conceals a reality that must be addressed — that the question of Western Sahara is one of decolonization — and would give one country sovereignty over a territory which it occupies unlawfully.

- With respect to the third option, Algeria, anxious to continue making a full contribution to the Personal Envoy's efforts to find a lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara on the basis of the principles of equity and justice, would like to reiterate that it remains ready to examine any proposal for a peaceful settlement that would take fully into account the legitimate national interests of the Saharan people.

- As for the fourth option, Algeria earnestly hopes for a just and lasting settlement of the question of Western Sahara that would enable the fraternal Moroccan and Saharan peoples to live in peace, stability and harmony, and permit the process of constructing the Arab Maghreb to resume its normal course and to reach natural fruition with the integration of all its peoples in a harmonious, united and prosperous whole. It considers that the United Nations must commit itself in a more decisive and resolute manner to a just and lasting settlement of the question of Western Sahara.

4. Eager to help ease tensions and to make its contribution to the settlement of the question of Western Sahara, Algeria, as a country observing the implementation of the settlement plan and as a neighbouring country, will continue its unconditional support for the efforts by the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the question of Western Sahara in accordance with international law. It calls on the United Nations and specifically the

Security Council to assume fully their responsibilities towards the Saharan people under the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador